

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to provide the facility on the working days?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b). Rebate in rent is allowed when the telephone remains interrupted continuously for 7 days or more due to departmental reasons. Orders have been issued to the Field Units to rectify telephone defects within twenty four hours as best as possible.

(c) No, Sir, This facility is available on all days including holidays on a limited basis.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of T.V. Relay stations in Bihar

1700. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.V. Relay Stations likely to be set up in Bihar during the current financial year; and

(b) the location of the district centres in Bihar state where T.V. relay stations would be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b). While no TV transmitter is envisaged to be commissioned in Bihar during the remaining period of the current financial year (1991-92), 5 low power TV transmitters one each at district headquarter towns of Hazaribagh, Gumla, Lohardaga, Godda and Aurangabad are planned to be set up in the State. It is also envisaged to set up three more transmitters, one each Nawada, Raxaul and Gaya in the State, subject to actual availability of resources and inter-se priority.

News Item Captioned "Ghost Calls and dead Phones"

1701. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Statesman dated September 26, 1991; under the cation "Ghost calls dead phones"; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the government to set right the numerous complaints about the working of telephone from the consumers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The facts given in the News item are of general-nature.

(i) The Department of Telecommunication is already seized of the difficulties being experienced by the subscribers of New Delhi. The telephone services are generally satisfactory, but in case of general break downs due to natural calamities and thefts of underground cables restoration is delayed.

(ii) All the subscribers connected to electronic exchanges are provided with dynamic STD facility and they are also provided detailed bills for STD calls. In these cases, thus question of 'ghost calls' does not arise. In all cases of excess billing complaints, which constitute a low percentage of bills issued a regular Prescribed procedure exists for rectifying the grievances of the complainant and rebates are given wherever justified.

(iii) The gadget mentioned in the news item is meant to suppress metering in a foreign country for an incoming call to India.